

WELCOME TO SPIRIT OF LIFE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

14401 Pilot Knob Road / Apple Valley, MN 55124

www.spiritoflifeav.org / spirit@spiritoflifeav.org / 952.423.2212

Thank you for joining us!

We hope you experience the joy of God's love in our diverse, inclusive, and compassionate community. Come as you are; all are welcome!

- ◇ Worship is at 10:00 am Sunday mornings, and can be live-streamed or watched later on YouTube or Facebook.
- ◇ Restrooms are in the first hallway to the left on exiting the sanctuary.

ORDER OF WORSHIP DECEMBER 7, 2025

**All who are able are invited to stand. Regular attenders, visitors, & members, please complete & return Connect/Prayer cards in offering plate or to the Welcome Table at the back of the sanctuary.*

*Today's worship leaders: Rev. Rob Smith, Ruth Ewule, Merry Close
Advent Candle readers: Pat Ekstrom, Karen Meyer, Emma Meyer*

Light the Candle

Prelude

Welcome

Advent Candle / Congregational Song: He Came Down

Call to Worship

One: In the valley of dry bones, silence hung heavy. All that once was living lay still and forgotten.

All: But the breath of God began to stir, and bones began to rattle with life again.

One: This is how life begins—not in strength or certainty, but in the quiet breath of God moving through the weary and the waiting.

All: Come, Spirit of Life, breathe in us.

One: In every age, God speaks into dry places and calls creation to rise again. That same Spirit breathes in us today, awakening hope where it has grown thin.

All: We come again to listen—to breathe, to hope, to live.

One: Come, people of God. Come, seekers of life. The Spirit is moving, and God's promise is near.

All: Come, Spirit of Life, breathe in us.

***Opening Song** It Came Upon the Midnight Clear (Hymn #123 vs 1, 2, & 4)

Prayer of Reconciliation

Assurance of Grace

***Passing of Peace**

***Song** Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus (Hymn #82)

Prayer of Illumination

Intro to Scripture

Scripture Ezekiel 37

Children's sermon

Sermon (Rev. Rob Smith) The Promise of More: More Life

Call To Offering

Ushers will circulate offering plates for those who wish to give in this way. Online giving is also available on our website.

Offertory Carol of the Bells traditional Ukranian Carol (by Mykolo Leontovich, arr for bells by William C. Witherup) (Spirit of Life Handbell Choir)

Communion: Welcome to the Table (Rev. Rob Smith)

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving / Prayers of the People

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Holy Communion

Song During Communion

Announcements

Reading

***Closing Song** Hark! the Herald Angels Sing (Hymn #119, vs 1 & 3)

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude

Please join us for coffee and refreshments after worship.

Announcements

Visitors: Welcome to Spirit of Life Presbyterian Church! Thank you for worshiping with us. Visitors, regular attenders and members, please complete the Connect/Prayer card and indicate if you wish to receive our weekly emails. If you don't have a card, please pick one up from our Information Table at the back of the sanctuary. Please return completed Connect/Prayer card in offering plate or in box labeled accordingly at the back. If you have any questions, please ask at the Information Table or Pastor Rob.

Sunday Events:

- **Children's Sunday School** class starts at 9:30am and goes until 10:15, then the kids will join adults in sanctuary for the Children's sermon.

Weekday Events:

- **(Tuesday) COFFEE and CONVERSATION with Pastor Rob meets Tuesdays, 9:00 -10:00 am.** Plan to join us Tuesday and come as you are. This week we meet at Spirit of Life, in person or online. It is open for you to pop in and out any time so feel free to drop in and say hello. *Note, same time and same login, recurring meeting each week. Join Zoom Meeting at <https://zoom.us/j/286584190>.
- Join us Wednesdays for our **Meet in the Middle** family night schedule:
 4:30-6:30pm children 6:00PM Family Dinner
 6-8pm youth 6-8pm Men's group (2nd & 4th weeks)
 7pm choir & small music group rehearsal
 Join us Dec 10, and Dec 17. We'll take a break then and resume February 11.

It takes all of us to be the church. Leadership has worked diligently to organize the opportunities and share many of these through the following Sign-Up Genius links. Would you please take a few minutes and help make a commitment to help pick up a part. Please click on the link and select a date you could serve:

Fellowship Time

Dec 7: Mark Devine
 Dec 14: Elders (We welcome new members!)
 Dec 21: Patrick Keohane / Christian Ed Committee

Please use this link to sign up to prepare and serve coffee and treats for the fellowship time: Spirit of Life Congregation: Spirit of Life Sunday Fellowship - Coffees/Treats (signupgenius.com)

Usher/Greeter

Dec 7: (VOLUNTEER NEEDED)
 Dec 14: Patrick Keohane and Becky Brandt
 Dec 21: (VOLUNTEER NEEDED)

Please use this link to sign up to serve as an Usher/Greeter—
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4CAFA92FAAFCC34-50066232-spirit>
 Thank You, Pastor Rob



Next Sunday, December 14th, we will receive the Christmas Joy offering. Special envelopes are in the bulletins to designate accordingly. Through the Christmas Joy Offering, we celebrate God's perfect gift to us, with generous support of leaders among us—past, present and future—who point us to God.

Membership Class: The final class is today, Dec 7, at 11:15am. We'll be receiving new members in worship next Sunday, Dec 14.

Listening Circles – December 7 & 14, following worship. As Spirit of Life shapes a renewed **mission and vision**, we're inviting every voice to be heard. Join the **Listening Circle after worship** to share your hopes and insights for our church's future.

Confirmation Class for your 6th, 7th, or 8th grader! **Next class is Dec. 14th.** We'll meet the 2nd & 4th Sundays of each month, resuming in January 2026. If you have any questions, please reach out to Pastor Rob.

Would you like to join the Deacons and Community service teams in preparing **Christmas cookie trays**? Sign up at the info table to bring 3-4 dozen cookies on

Sunday, December 14th, and following worship, we'll enjoy fellowship while we prep trays in the DOVE room! See Rose McMurray with questions.

We are now again sponsoring The Giving Tree project. Gift cards to Target, Walmart, Cub, Aldi, Kwik Trip, and Holiday are requested in \$25 increments. Cash/check donations also appreciated payable to Spirit of Life with Pastors Discretionary Fund in memo line. This is another way of supporting those in our church family and community who are struggling with job loss, buying groceries, gas for cars to get to work, housing, etc throughout the year. Our goal is \$1000 but the need is even greater. Let's show how much we care during this season of giving. Please see the display in back of the sanctuary. Thank you for your continued generosity!

Merry Old SoLs, our senior fellowship group, will meet Wednesday, Dec. 10, 9:30-11:30, at the home of Bob & Rebecca Shepard in Dundas.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY meets 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at the church!! The next meeting is Wednesday, December 10th, at 6:00 PM.

The Christian Education committee is again putting together **treat bags** for the children after their program on December 21. If you would like to contribute wrapped candy or small holiday favors, please put them in the basket in the front hall by Sunday, December 14. Thanks!!

SoL Call

ACLU Action

Enhanced immigration enforcement is likely coming to our state next year. Let your elected representatives know that you don't want troops in our streets!

<https://action.aclu.org/send-message/tell-congress-no-troops-our-streets>

Funds raised with the **Poinsettia youth fundraiser** go toward the summer youth Montreat trip. Orders due to church office December 8. Grab an order form from the back table, complete and drop in the offering plate with payment. Reach Becky Brandt at thebrandtfam@gmail.com with questions.

The "final" numbers are in for the 2025 South of the River CROP Hunger Walk! Our walk raised \$20,192, meaning our walk will contribute over \$5,000 to Second Harvest Heartland at a time when they are stressed by the increasing food insecurity in our state. Spirit of Life raised \$5,730. THANK YOU to all who participated in ANY way this year! Save the date for 2026: CROP Walk Sunday will be October 11, 2026.

Prayer requests to share with our Spirit Care Prayer Team may be emailed to Barb at bostlund@charter.net. Word it as you wish it to be submitted, and we will post it for our prayer team.

2026 Per Capita is \$43.75

Usual Church Office Hours: Monday & Thursday 10-3. Call ahead to make sure as we work remotely some days.

Staff: Pastor: Rev. Robert (Rob) Smith (pastorrob@spiritoflifeav.org)
Music Director: Martha Davis (davis.martha@live.com)
Office Administrator: Shari Shaw (spirit@spiritoflifeav.org)
Nursery Director: Trista Hansen
Tech Director: Joe Cornormia
AV Intern: Emma Meyer
Children's Director: Christine Kolb

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